

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

November, 1987



An ARRL Special Service Club

Next Meeting: November 11

SPOTLIGHT ON A HAM BY LORNA, KA7RFD

Recently appointed as Section Emergency Coordinator for the state of Oregon is Dale LeBarron, W7FBP. The SEC is appointed by the ARRL to take care of all matters pertaining to emergency communications and the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) on a sectionwide basis. Dale's prior experience as Emergency Coordinator for Clackamas County gives him an excellent background for this new role.

Dale joined OTVARC four years ago and is also a member of Clackamas ARC and TERAC. He is retired from Tektronix as the Manager of the Automatic Circuit Board test area in Wilsonville but is currently employed with Tek on a temporary assignment, the third time he has been recalled from retirement. Working at Tek with so many OTVARC members prompted him to join our club.

After a spell at sea as a Radio Operator in the Navy during the Korean War, Dale joined the State Police in 1956. A colleague, Dick Bass, W7SMR introduced him to ham radio. His first equipment

was all surplus or modified gear and he enjoys building things, although he says he hasn't done much lately.

Born in Phoenix, Arizona, Dale moved with his folks to Junction City after various Summer vacations in Oregon. The need for workers in the Portland shipyards in WWII prompted the family move to this area. Dale and his wife Joan currently own an eight acre farm in Clackamas County where they farm grain and as Dale says "watch the quail come up on the deck outside the kitchen window to be fed."

Joan, for the past 35 years, has been employed as a Counselor with the Circuit Court of Clackamas County Juvenile Department.

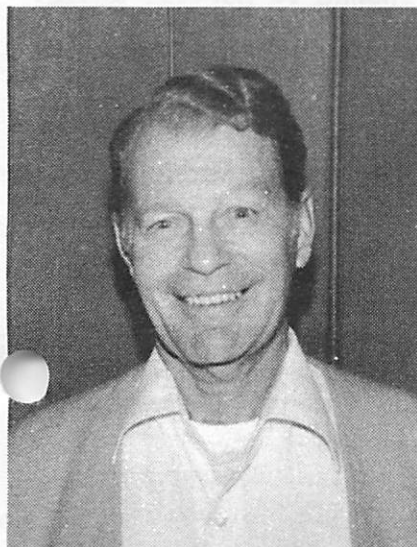
Dale is a hunter and enjoys pulling around a camping trailer and lists one of his main hobbies as keeping down the poison oak and blackberries on the farm. He's also retired as Master Chief Cryptological Technician with the Naval Reserve.

Apart from his well known activities on CW and side band traffic nets on 80 meters, he says he is not into DX but he enjoys working a foreign station if nobody is jumping on him, especially teletype.

He recalls an incident four or five years ago when he was net control for CARES on 2 meters one Sunday night. About halfway down the roll call he was surprised that he had nobody checking in - only to find he was handling the net on the wrong frequency.

Dale says he enjoys OTVARC very much especially working at the SEA-PAC convention. He's been a member of the Convention Committee for the past four years and is a committee member for the '88 National.

Thanks for everything you do, Dale and keep up the good work.



Dale
LeBarron
W7FBP

ARRL TEN METER CONTEST COMING SOON BY JEFF, K7JF

The ARRL Ten Meter Contest will be held December 12-13 from 0000 UTC Saturday to 2400 UTC Sunday. A change in this year's rules allows CW and SSB contacts to be counted as separate bands. Novice and Technician stations count for double points, as does CW contacts over SSB.

OTVARC has traditionally sponsored a station to operate the contest. Last year, the K7JF/KQ7I team took first place for a multi-operator station in the Oregon Section.

Anyone up for it this year? Plans are already in the works. All we need is a gallant few (or many) to step up and grab the mike and/or key. The bands are certainly in much better shape than last year, and operating could be a real challenge. If you are interested in joining, please contact K7JF or KQ7I as soon as possible.

Oh yes, one very important point. Since the contest is a 48 hour event and limited to 36 hours of on-the-air activity, the contesters more than appreciate back-up support. Spotting nets are allowed, as are coffee and munchy finders. Observers are always welcome, even just to copy code or watch the contest happenings. Please join in!

RUSTY KEY CONTEST RESULTS BY JEFF, K7JF

Congratulations to the team of John Koenig, NB7W and John Liebenrood, K7RO for their dazzling performance as top scoring station in the 1987 OTVARC Rusty Key Contest.

Operating from their secret northwest Portland hideaway, the dynamic duo took advantage of long 15 meter band conditions and racked up a total of 9 contacts worth 63 points; this in a matter of only 90 minutes! In a far distant second the always powerful Larry Johnson, K7LJ/6 in Santa Clara, California collected 6 contacts for 30 points.

Others submitting logs included K7JF and W7ISP, each with 3 contacts.

While the NB7W/K7RO team will be presented with a plaque at an upcoming meeting, the coveted Antronics Gold Key went unclaimed this year for lack of a decisive "best CW fist." Better luck next year.

OTVARC's next contest will be the annual April Fools 10 Meter SSB Contest. The club also sponsors a Valentine's Day special event station with commemorative certificate; an excellent opportunity for newcomers to "get their feet wet" by operating. Details to follow in January.

DUES RENEWAL AND ELECTIONS PENDING BY JEFF, K7JF

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, annual elections are but a meeting away; at the same time, collection of 1988 dues begins.

To ensure the speedy and accurate processing of dues renewal, as well as the confidentiality of your election voting, a colored envelope scheme has been devised for your return mail.

As it now stands, ballots and dues renewal forms will be in the mail well in advance of the December 1 deadline. In the club packet, all full members will find a BLUE elections ballot and a corresponding BLUE envelope. Please seal the envelope once you have completed your voting. A larger GRAY envelope will be provided with return address for your ballot and dues renewal forms.

All ballots must be RECEIVED by the Secretary by the beginning of the December club meeting for transmittal to the Elections Committee.

Your Board of Directors has recommended no change in annual dues, set at \$10.00 for 1988. Family and life memberships are available, and are described in the dues renewal material.

The dues renewal form is an important source of feedback. Not only do we receive updated personal information, but occasional comments and suggestions; which are encouraged.

OCTOBER DINNER OUT BY LORNA, KA7RFD

Although, regrettably, there was no announcement at the October meeting because everyone had forgotten the date was on our calendar, we had a wonderful turnout of 52 people to the Country Kitchen restaurant in Beaverton on October 24.

A great big thank you to Bobbi Antons for arranging this at such short notice, with additional thanks to Marvel, KA7TZI for assisting with making telephone calls to all club members.

Susan, N7EPE introduced a great game with dice that you played for 25 cents with elimination each round if you threw below a certain number. I thought it was so great because I won the kitty of \$13.

It was so nice to meet members who can never get to club meetings because of weekday work commitments.

Put a big check mark by the Dinner Out dates as soon as you get the '88 calendar - you don't want to miss such fun evenings.

LORNA'S LOOKOUT BY LORNA, KA7RFD

A small but select group attended the Newsletter brainstorming session on October 21. Some very constructive ideas emerged. We are working on obtaining a new computer program which looks really good and could give us the capability of having graphics, yet a readable type. It hasn't hit the Portland software stores yet. Alternatively, Ken, N7JAS, is looking at the possibility of formatting the finished copy through an accessible mainframe computer, so we are working on streamlining the procedure.

Another idea which we will implement soon is to have a questionnaire asking for your comments as to what type of articles you would like to see, ideas as to who could write them, etc. I hope you'll take the time to fill in the questionnaire.

A very valid point was brought up that we assume new members understand what's going on. We should give more information as to what to expect from the Rusty Key Contest, working a Public Service event, or even Field Day for example. I hope Committee people will give me the necessary information at a suitable date.

I believe we publish a high quality Newsletter, in part because of the excellent response I have had in obtaining articles from you the members. Almost every month, out of the blue, comes an article I didn't expect. With over 250 members we have people with very varied interests, so please don't think an article isn't interesting enough to publish in the Newsletter, somebody will be really glad to get the information.

KA7RNN and KA7T2T have graciously agreed to fold, staple and mutilate the Newsletter, with Pat, KA7UFG as a backup. In future, blame Roger and Marvel if the staple is in backwards! And thanks to Alan, K07B and Neil, WA6KLA who gave me the "funnies" for this issue.

On another subject it seems to me that each nominee for an office should be prepared at the November meeting to give a short talk on their hopes and aspirations for the club and what they hope to accomplish during their tenure. With 60 new members this year, I wonder how they can vote intelligently if they are not familiar with the nominees. A Board member has implied that if this happened we would not get people to run. I am not suggesting this should happen this year, but maybe it is something we should think about in the future. Any comments? Letters to the Ed???

REMEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER, 19

Details in December Newsletter

MEMBERS CELEBRATE NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to the following members celebrating birthdays this month:

Ardyce Moore	KA7WXX	Nov	3
Kirke Johnson	WB7PXZ		3
Dave Morrisson	W7JXU		4
Paul Schaff	WB7BBG		8
George Nelson	WB7VWK		8
Mike Farrell	KE7HS		9
Joanne Kryszek	KB7AFJ		10
Bernard Pollock	KQ7L		10
Jim Oggerino	KA7ODY		12
Terry Kornegay	KA7JOX		15
Bob Trimble	N7IYI		16
Jon Luke	NL7EN		17
Martin Schmid	N7CYG		18
Jeff Freedman	K7JF		21
Jon Berg	WB7VWX		24
John Burgess	N7DCQ		25
Fran Haag	NI7E		28
Bill Matsukado	WA7JBE		28
Leon Sayer	KA7RJR		30

OTVARC SCORES BIG IN 1987 FIELD DAY BY JEFF, K7JF

It's official folks. According to the November issue of QST, OTVARC scored eighth in the 3A Battery class with a final score of 4,502 points. In terms of contacts the club finished third. There were a total of 22 entries in the 3A class, operating three stations and power under 200 watts.

Wonder how those guys in Silver Springs operating K4GSO operated in a battery class of 24A within a radius of 300 feet?

FIELD DAY RESULTS BY LORNA, KA7RFD

Looking through the F/D results in QST I was pleased to see, as Jeff reports above, that OTVARC placed eighth. Our splinter group of OTPARG did well in the 2A Battery class with 4,380 point. But did you notice some of the names of the groups?

The Resurrected River Rats or the Rotten Radio ARC, Beer Battered Balloon Busters or, one I particularly liked, I Hate My XXYL ARC.

OTVARC or OTPARG seems so mundane. How about a new name for next year - OTVARC's Objective Oddballs, or The OTVARC Ozonospheres? And slugs are in right now - OTVARC's Sonorous Slugs. The possibilities are endless.

SITUATIONS VACANT

A rare opportunity exists for the positions of Assistant Editor and Advertising Manager for a prestigious, monthly Newsletter published in Washington County. This is volunteer employment and no salary is paid. Please send resume to OTVARC or call Lorna, KA7RFD.

PORTABLE OPERATION BY PAUL, WB7BBG

I recently had the opportunity to spend three days in portable operation at the Galice forest fire base camp on the Rogue River in Southern Oregon in conjunction with members of the Josephine County ARES. Previous experience with portable operation had taught me the importance of proper preparation in order to undertake this efficiently and with as few omissions as possible. Even though I did not need to set up an independent station at this site, I could easily have done so and some of the equipment that I took with me was put to good use.

FCC Regulation 97.3 defines portable operation as "Radiocommunication conducted from a specific geographic location other than that shown on the station license". This is usually of a more extensive nature than that required for parades, races and fairs where a 2 meter handheld is all that is needed. It consequently requires some advanced planning to allow for operation of from several days to possibly several weeks duration with appropriate equipment, supplies and personal gear. Additions to, or replacement of major equipment, or even small items, may be a problem at the portable site.

It is difficult to assemble and pack all necessary equipment on short notice and there is a real problem that one or more important items will be omitted. In order to facilitate rapid preparation and departure, a list of radio equipment, tools, supplementary equipment and personal items should be made in advance and then periodically revised and updated. This list will allow for rapid check-off when preparing to leave and minimizes the chance for omission of items that may be very important later.

Most small items can be easily prepacked in small tool boxes or cartons (each with a list of contents attached) so as to be ready to load as a unit. All of my necessary tools, small hardware items and record keeping supplies are kept in one plastic tool box about 24 inches long and are thus always ready to go. Take what you are comfortable with but don't overdo it!

Choice of radios will depend on the site of operation and type of communication required but should include your 2 meter handheld and mobile radios, other VHF or UHF gear, if you have it, and low band equipment when indicated. Omission of a microphone, a power cord, battery packs, or coax with connectors will disable your station just as much as leaving your antenna at home, so be sure that all accessories needed for a particular radio are also on the list.

A future article will discuss some additional aspects of portable operation and my list of what I think are necessary items. Your requirements may vary according to your personal preferences and capabilities but advance

consideration and preparation will enable you to do a better job when you get a request at a late hour. Make your list now and we'll compare notes next month.

P.S. While writing this article I was interrupted by news of the Los Angeles earthquake and took time off to handle some H & W traffic on 14.313. My thoughts were that had it happen here in Oregon, I might at that moment be loading my equipment and leaving for some shelter or emergency center right here.

NEW MEMBERS CORNER BY KATHRYN, KA7UMB

Welcome to our new members for this month who include:

George Morgan, WB3ELG, Advanced Class licensee. This name should sound familiar; George was a charter member and first president of OTVARC in 1978. He has been a ham since 1956. George is a self-employed mechanical engineer, single, who enjoys camping, snow skiing and snow camping. Welcome home!!!

Mary Rice, KB7ALP, Novice license. Mary is retired and, along with a friend, owns the sail boat "Sea Gypsy", which they plan to sail (on a long, slow, lazy trip) to California this Spring. By November, they will head for Mexico and with good weather, through the canal up the East Coast. She could really use some help - their radio reception (using a Spider Antenna) is none too good. Any volunteers??

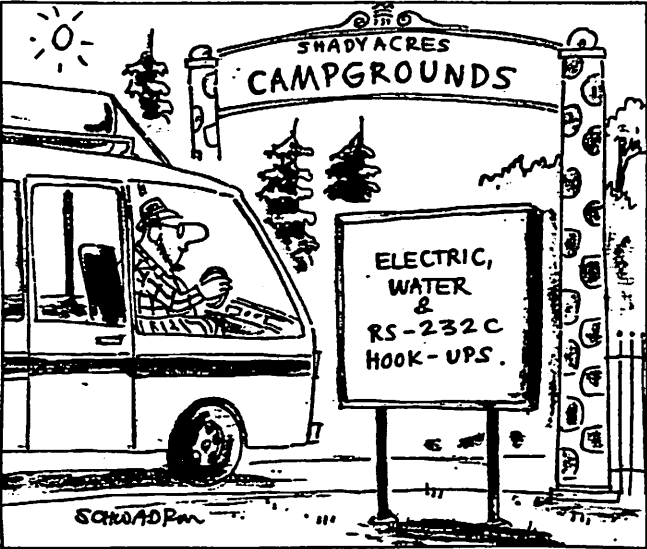
Phillip Weaver, an associate member, is attending KA7HJT, Randy's class at PCC. He is married to Marilyn and they have two sons. Phillip is an instructor of mechanic training for on-board computers at General Motors Training Center. His hobbies include dirt bikes and wood shop. Phillip has moved around the United States as a part of his job; hopefully, he'll get to stay in this area more than a few years.

Larry Hinton, Advance licensee, K7YBZ, has been a "ham" since 1962. He is currently attending PSU working on the electronic engineering degree and is anticipating a December graduation. Larry's hobbies include computers and he is a bicyclist (member of the Portland Wheelman Touring Club). Actually, Larry joined us through meeting Randy, KZ7T, when he used his hand-held to obtain motorist assistance for someone and then became involved when offering to assist with communications at the MS 150 Bike-a-thon where he was a participant.

John Salisbury and Sam Senior joined us at the October meeting and we'll have information on them next month.

Welcome to all of you!

THE OTVARC TRAVELERS BY TONY, KA7ZDE



The October campout at Cape Lookout State Park marked the one year anniversary of the OTVARC Travelers. Thirteen families attended and John, N7J and family joined us for hamburgers on Saturday. Quite an increase from the first campout at Detroit Lake in October, 1986 with 3 RVs. Welcome to the group: Steve, KA7MOW and children and John, NB7W. Bobbi and I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to the many people who have given so much of their time and efforts to help make this group successful. Seems like each campout gets better and we are really looking forward to more people and more fun in '88.

The November trip is to Holiday RV Park at Depoe Bay. It's on a bluff overlooking the ocean. There is an indoor swimming pool, sauna, jacuzzi, exercise room and game room available. Saturday, November 21 we will celebrate Thanksgiving with a turkey dinner and all the trimmings. Anyone planning to attend the campout or just the dinner, please call Bobbi if you haven't already signed up for the potluck.

The November campout will be the last trip in '87. There will be no trip in December so that everyone can attend the Christmas party on the 19th. The Travelers will continue to use the third weekend of each month for their trips in '88. In the next Newsletter we will have the locations for the first 3 trips in '88. Plan to join us.

(Ed's note: A great big thank you should also be given to Tony and Bobbi for all THEIR time and effort to make the Travelers such a success.)

NOMINATIONS

Your Nominations Committee of Greg, W7AGQ; Martin, N7CYG and Janet, WB7FJC has been hard at work and there is a nominee for every office. However, for two offices there is no competition.

If you would consider running, or if you know anyone who would, please contact any of the above. Remember nominations are closed at the November meeting.

1988 CALENDAR BY LORNA, KA7RFD

It's time to start on the 1988 calendar for insertion in the January Newsletter. We'll also have a new Resource Directory at that time.

Please call me if you have dates PRIOR to December 20. If possible, we need dates for Project Nights, all Public Service Events as well as our regular club functions.

My number is 297-1175. A message on the answering machine is just fine. Thanks for your cooperation.

SURPRISE! SURPRISE! - NOVEMBER MEETING

Just prior to press time, I was advised by Roger, K7RXV, that our November speaker had cancelled.

If you can recommend a program at this late date, or if you are willing to present a program, please get in touch with Roger immediately.

We are planning a purely social meeting in December, so maybe we'll have two social evenings in a row. There always seems a lot to talk about anyway and, as usual, we'll have a fun evening.

TOM RICKERTS, N7CPA

At press time we learn that Tom, N7CPA has been in an automobile accident and is in the Intensive Care Unit of Emanuel Hospital. No further details are known. Tom was formerly the SEC and is well known to many OTVARC members. Our best wishes go to him.

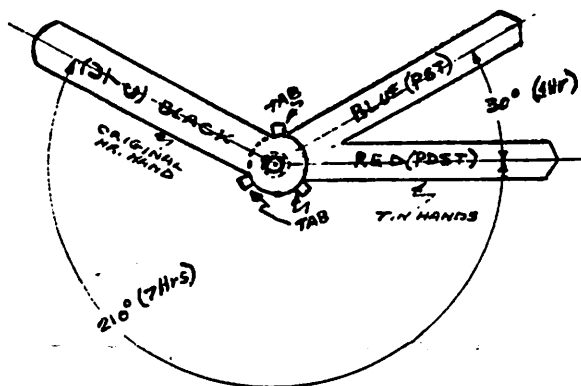


ARE YOU TIRED? - BY FLOYD, W7KLE

Tired of setting A.C. clocks after power interruptions, of setting "Fall back" and "Spring forward", of converting 12 hour into 24 hour format, or of calculating UTC for the log?

Perhaps you already have a battery powered, 8" or 10", xtal time base, kitchen clock. If not, they are available for as little as eight bucks at the supermarkets and variety stores.

Do this: Carefully lift off the press-fit hands. Using lightweight tin (fruit can material is fine), cut a "V"-shaped pair of hands as shown in the figure below. Make the hole in the hub just a hair larger than that in the original hour hand. Cut three tabs on the tin hub so that they can be bent upward and over the original hub. For the Pacific Time Zone (+8) the tin hands are oriented as shown with a lag of 7 and 8 hours, respectively.



Reinstall all hands on the clock being sure to set the hour and minute hands on an even hour and minute and the second hand on 60. Paint the original hour hand black, (it will keep UTC), the hand which lags it by 7 hours red (hot for Summer or PDST) and the hand which lags by 8 hours blue (cold, for Winter or PST). Paint the minute hand any color other than the others. Gold is nice. The second hand being very slim and moving very fast needs no change.

Buy some stick-on numerals, which are available in variety stores for a buck or so and stick them inboard (or outboard, depending upon where the most space is available) of the existing figures. One o'clock becomes 13 to.....12 o'clock becomes 24. Pick numerals of suitable size to fit the space. The artwork is the choice of the artist.

If this type of clock is suitable for your purpose and satisfies your penchant for "do-it-yourself" projects - fine. If not, there are several commercially built clocks which will do all this and more for about two to three times the price.

It should not be necessary to say so (but I am always saying unnecessary things) but for those who do not live in the +8 time zone, the lag and hub-tabs will have to be adjusted accordingly.

FLASH!! FLASH!! SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB RENEWAL

We received a letter dated October 21, 1987 from Lee Hayford, AH2W, Manager, Club Services Department of the ARRL which says, in part:

"We are pleased to report that the Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC, Inc. has been officially renewed as a Special Service Club. Through the work of its members, this club is again recognized for extended efforts on behalf of Amateur Radio and service to its community."

Congratulations to everyone for making this possible.

ANOTHER THANK YOU

A letter addressed to K27T dated October 2 from Elissa Ashmore of Beaverton Good Neighbor Days:

"Thank you and your club members who volunteered time and expertise to making communication between sites possible.

I must tell you, you and your friends were the key ingredient in the success of the parade.

Your praises have been sung by every site coordinator and I appreciate what you did and the enthusiastic manner in which you helped us!"

THE OTVARC NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc. The opinions, views and recommendations of its contributors are not necessarily those of the Club, its officers, advertisers or Newsletter Committee.

Articles may be submitted to: Lorna Campbell, KA7RFD, Editor 9890 SW Inglewood Portland, OR 97225. Cutoff date for all newsletter material is the 20th of the preceeding month.

Dues for OTVARC membership are \$10.00 per year and are prorated quarterly. There is a one-time initiation fee of \$2.00.

Meetings are held on the Second Wednesday of each month at the Beaverton Elks Lodge, 3500 SW 104 Avenue, starting at 7PM. A buffet dinner is served at 6:15PM.

All correspondence other than for the Newsletter should be sent to: Ore. Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club PO Box 25545 Portland, OR 97225-0545.

DX FOR BEGINNERS AND OTHERS
BY GREG, W7AGQ

Last month we delved into the QSL situation. Let's talk a bit more about this subject. First, how about your QSL card. Do you have one? If not, there are many, many printers who would like to make QSL cards for you...look at the ads in the ham magazines and you'll see. There are a number of local QSL printers as well. Just ask around the Club. The design is up to you. More elaborate ones and color designs, of course, are more expensive.

I have my picture on my QSL because I think hams halfway around the world would like to see who they've worked. Actually I give them two shots at my overly round face...one by the rig and another in my robe and with a gavel in front of my judicial nameplate. I think I get a greater response to my QSLs this way. In fact, I got one from a 6W8 in the Senegal with this note attached. "I've moved. Logs apparently lost at sea. Here's my card though. If you can't trust a Judge, who can you trust."

The point is, use some imagination. Try to design a card that is unique. If your card sets you apart and is interesting, you have a better chance to get a reply. The Club once offered QSLs at a nominal price. Maybe they'll do the same again if there is sufficient interest.

Next month I'll give you some quotes from "The W6GQ/K6HHD QSL Manager List" which I mentioned earlier.

73 and 88 where appropriate.

THE PREZ SEZ
BY PAUL, WB6SHR

We had a good turn out at last month's club meeting. For those of you who missed it, Dee, KA7NPN, put on a very good program about his back packing trips. He also showed us the type of clothing and equipment they use when they go on these trips. It was a very interesting program. Thanks, Dee. Question...how many of you are ready to climb Mt. Hood next June? Just think of the range you would get on a handheld or QRP rig up there. Wow!

At the last meeting I also reminded everyone that the Nominations Committee will be taking nominations for Club Officers. If you want to run for office, or you know someone who does, you should show up at the November meeting. The Nominations Committee will be tallying up all nominations and will put together a voter's pamphlet. The voter's pamphlet will be mailed to you around the first of December and at the December club meeting new Officers and Trustees will be announced. Please don't forget to vote.

On October 17, a group from our club went down to the Boy Scouts Headquarters in Portland for the annual "Jamboree on the Air". An article by Bob, WF7Q appears in this Newsletter issue. Attendance was higher than last year, so we are seeing some benefit. Our idea is to introduce Ham Radio to Scouts of all ages. Who knows, the exposure might foster some interest someday.

Hope you can join us at our next club meeting. Until then 73s for now.

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4. Kenwood SW200 SWR Bridge - \$25.
5. Nye Viking electronic keyer - \$45.
6. Dentron Super Tuner - \$50.
7. Beam antenna - \$75.
8. Vertical antenna - \$50.
9. Dummy load - \$15.
10. Micranta regulated 12-volt power supply - best offer.
11. B & W Protax coaxial selector switch model 376 - best offer.
12. CDE Auto Rotor - best offer.

Each item can be sold individually or the lot for \$950.

Plus Heathkit QRP HW-8 Station - Transceiver/Power Supply/Antenna Tuner/Watt Meter - \$150

Call Carol, N7ISW

645-1733

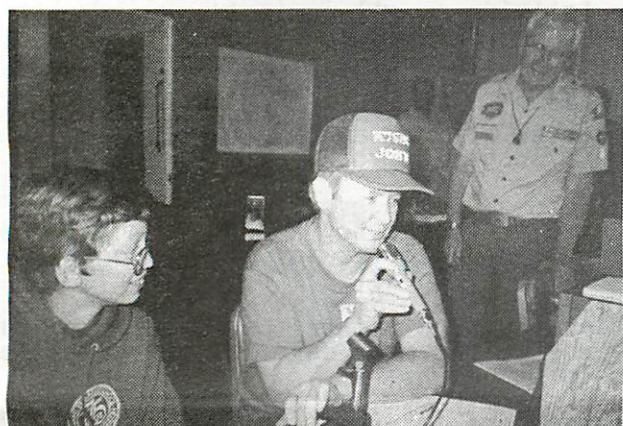
JAMBOREE ON THE AIR BY BOB, WF7Q

On Saturday, October 17 members of OTVARC used the emergency trailer to set up a station at the Boy Scouts of America Service Center in Portland to work the Jamboree on the Air (JATO).

The purpose of JATO is to promote friendship among Scouts via amateur radio. Both Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls are urged to participate by the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

We had about 50 boys and girls get on the air and talk to other scouts at similar stations. We worked 14 states and two foreign countries.

Members participating were: Randy, KZ7T; Paul, WB6SHR; John, K7SHC; Bud, KC7PS; Rick, KA5OLH; Dee, KA7NPN and myself.



JOHN, K7SHC OPERATES AT JATO



BOB, WF7Q FRONTVIEW WITH BUD, KC7PS



AND BOB REARVIEW WITH RICH, KA5OLH

HOLIDAY MESSAGES BY LORNA, KA7RFD

At this time of year many ARCs visit shut-ins in hospitals or nursing homes or set up booths in shopping malls to send Holiday greetings. If you are on one of the local nets and you hear a request to handle traffic, won't you please help, particularly if you live in an out of the way area.

I remember the first time I handled a piece of traffic. A count of 35 words each with a call sign followed by a number. I was devastated. Back in those days I didn't even know what a net report was.

You probably won't have to handle traffic like that, but here to assist you are the common ARRL numbered radiograms for this season.

ARRL SIXTY

Wishing you the best of everything on _____.

ARRL SIXTY ONE

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ARRL SIXTY TWO

Greetings and best wishes to you for a pleasant _____ Holiday season.

The surprise and appreciation you get from the person to whom the message is delivered will more than compensate for your knees knocking on your first attempt.

HEARD AROUND THE CLUB BY LORNA, KA7RFD

Pleased to report that Joan, KA7VXC is doing really well after major surgery.

Congratulations to Deborah Smith, KA2JPT who recently passed her Technician license.

Chuck, N7DZA and Rose back from a trip to Switzerland and Ernie, W7AXJ down in Arizona for the winter already has his rig installed.

Call changes - Val Rall's new call N7JWA and Teresa Schmidt now N7JXZ. And how about this one, Bob Orr, KB7CC, an Extra for a long time has changed his call to WF7Q. That's going to be a hard one to remember, he'll always be Bob, CC to me.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING, EVERYONE.

FOR SALE

FULL STATION - RARELY USED \$495
HF Single side band Transceiver
YAESU FT 101ZD, Heathkit Electronic
Keyer 10-60M, Heathkit Antenna Load
Resistor, Home Brew Tuner 10-80M, SWR
Field Strength Meter, Mike, Manuals.
Ray O'Boone, KA7IKQ 644-5829

STANLEY HAMM ON TOWERS PART VII
BY STAN, W7NI

In this installment, I'll discuss what everyone should know about guy wires. First of all, know what kind of wire you're using. Avoid surplus wire with unknown specifications unless you are a wire expert yourself. Just knowing that it's seven-stranded, 1/4 inch, steel cable is not enough. I've seen 1/4 inch steel cable made out of very soft metal that was easy to bend. Of course, this makes it easy to work with, like when installing insulators and turnbuckles, however, it's risky because you won't know it's breaking strength which is probably low.

Rohn sells guy wire in reels which is usually 3/16 or 1/4 inch in size. It is described by them as "EHS" which means Extra High Strength. ("HS" or High Strength wire is also available.) This wire consists of seven solid strands of very stiff steel. It's hard to work with because it's so tough to bend when installing insulators, etc. I've guyed towers with it before but more flexible "wire rope" cable is much easier to work with and a bit more expensive.

"Wire Rope" is much like the stiff cable except that the seven strands are each composed of many smaller strands. Galvanized steel wire rope seems like the best deal in most cases. Some hams have asked me about stainless steel cable. Generally, it is prohibitively expensive and that goes for stainless "wire rope clips" (cable clamps) and stainless turnbuckles, too.

For Rohn 25 towers, I generally recommend 3/16 galvanized wire rope with a breaking strength of about 4,000 pounds. For Rohn 45, I suggest moving up to 1/4 inch galvanized wire rope with a breaking strength of about 6,000 pounds. If you're going bigger than Rohn 45, my advice is to find another advisor!

Generally, guying in three directions 120 degrees apart is the best way to go. It's not always possible to do this, however, because driveways, and houses get in the way. Sometimes it makes good sense to add a fourth guy between two others if the angle gets much wider than 120 degrees. Guying at an angle steeper than 60 degrees to the ground tends to put extra down loading on the tower as the guy wires are tightened. You may find yourself trying to decide whether a guy wire that's too steep is better or worse than one that is not 120 degrees from the other two. Each situation varies and you really need to consult a mechanical or structural engineer if you must evaluate compromises. Maybe another property location is the answer, or maybe you need to settle for a 50 foot tower instead of a 70 footer.

Wire rope clips or "U-type" cable clamps are not the only way to fasten cables to towers, insulators, or turnbuckles. There is a type of crimp-on clamp made of copper that works well. Ordinarily,

copper is a relatively soft metal and you might wonder if it is really adequate for the job. I have been told that the action of crimping the copper with the special crimping tool is equivalent to "cold-working" the metal and it becomes very hard. I've also been told these crimped clamps will not work loose since copper is forced in between cable strands. The cost of a crimped joint in 3/16 wire rope is about 80 cents which is about the cost of two conventional wire rope clips. One crimped copper clamp is enough per joint. There is debate about how many wire rope clips to use. Rohn says three per joint. Everybody I know uses two.

One possible objection to the copper crimped clamps is that they cannot be removed and re-used. CAUTION! Knowledgeable people tell me NEVER to re-use wire rope clips, either. They have been stressed and deformed by tightening in their first application. However, I know of many that have been re-used without failure. It would be safest to always use new ones.

One day while I was at work, a truck backed into my driveway to make a delivery and snagged a guy wire attached at the 50 foot level on one of my towers. As the driver overcame the invisible resistance with a heavy foot on the gas, the guy wire came free of the tower. If I had been home to see this, I surely would have passed out while envisioning a crumpling 115 foot tower with a 20 meter and a 40 meter beam on it. As it was, the guy wire was seven strand, 1/4 inch, stiff steel cable attached with two common wire rope clips. The cable simply slipped through the clips and fell to the ground. There was no visible damage and the tower stayed up with the eleven remaining guy wire still attached.

I learned something about wire rope clips: THEY LOOSEN UP AFTER A FEW YEARS. Later, when I reinstalled that guy wire, I found I could get another turn or so out of each wire rope clip nut on every guy wire on the tower! Some of my guy wires were broken up with egg insulators and this meant bringing those guy wires, one at a time, into the tower where I could retighten all of the clamps. If you have had a tower up for more than a couple of years, I strongly recommend you check the clamps for tightness. Carry some spare clamps because you are sure to break some when you tighten them. During this clamp-tightening exercise, if you have to disconnect a guy to bring it in to the tower to reach insulator clamps, consider installing a temporary guy in it's place just for safety.

I have been told that the crimped copper clamps do not loosen with time so that will be worth considering for your next tower project. Also, I've been told that crimped copper clamps are the choice of heavy crane experts for fastening all of their cables. My next tower will use crimped copper clamps.



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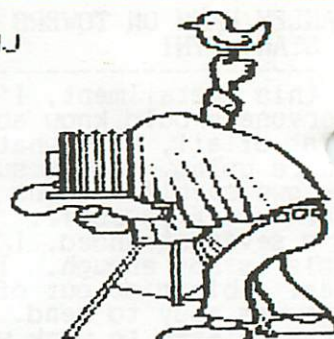
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STAN WEINSTEIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

E1)
SUITE 310 BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING
310 S. W. FOURTH AVENUE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 25545
Portland, Oregon 97225-0545



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